

United States District Court

FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CRIMINAL DIVISION
VENUE: SAN FRANCISCO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
v.

FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON,
TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON, and
VANESSA ANNE SHORT

FILED

APR 17 2008

RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED]

CR 08

0251

WHA

DEFENDANT.

INDICTMENT

Title 18, U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank
Robbery
Title 18, U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank
Robbery
Title 18, U.S.C. § 2 - Aiding and Abetting

INDICT

A true bill.

[Signature]
Foreman

Filed in open court this 17 day of APRIL 2008

[Signature]
Clerk

No bail warrant all defendants

[Signature]
Bail, \$

CM

WHA
CR08-251

AO 257 (Rev. 6/78)

DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 BY: ☐ COMPLAINT ☐ INFORMATION ☒ INDICTMENT
☐ SUPERSEDING
OFFENSE CHARGED
 Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery;
 Counts 2-9: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

☐ Petty
☐ Minor
☐ Misdemeanor
☒ Felony

PENALTY: See Penalty Sheet Attachment.

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO

DEFENDANT - U.S.

FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON

DISTRICT COURT NUMBER

CR 08

0251

DEFENDANT

PROCEEDING

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

☐ person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court, give name of court

☐ this person/proceeding is transferred from another district per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District

☐ this is a reprosecution of charges previously dismissed which were dismissed on motion of:

☐ U.S. ATTORNEY ☐ DEFENSE

SHOW DOCKET NO.

☐ this prosecution relates to a pending case involving this same defendant

MAGISTRATE CASE NO.

☐ prior proceedings or appearance(s) before U.S. Magistrate regarding this defendant were recorded under
IS NOT IN CUSTODY

Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.

- 1) ☐ If not detained give date any prior summons was served on above charges
- 2) ☐ Is a Fugitive
- 3) ☐ Is on Bail or Release from (show District)

IS IN CUSTODY

- 4) ☐ On this charge
- 5) ☒ On another conviction } ☒ Federal ☐ State
- 6) ☐ Awaiting trial on other charges

If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution

 Has detainer been filed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes" give date filed

DATE OF ARREST

Month/Day/Year

Or... if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not

DATE TRANSFERRED TO U.S. CUSTODY

Month/Day/Year

Name and Office of Person

Furnishing Information on this form JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO

☒ U.S. Attorney ☐ Other U.S. Agency

Name of Assistant U.S.

Attorney (if assigned)

DEREK R. OWENS

☐ This report amends AO 257 previously submitted
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS**PROCESS:**
☐ SUMMONS ☐ NO PROCESS* ☒ WARRANT

If Summons, complete following:

☐ Arraignment ☐ Initial Appearance

Defendant Address:

Bail Amount: _____

* Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment

Date/Time: _____

Before Judge: _____

Comments:

CM

PENALTY SHEET ATTACHMENT

As to Defendant Frederick Lim Johnson:

Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery, **Class D Felony**

Maximum Term of Imprisonment	Five Years
Maximum Fine	\$250,000
Maximum Term of Supervised Release	Three Years
Mandatory Special Assessment	\$100

Counts 2-9: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery, **Class B Felony**

As to each count:

Maximum Term of Imprisonment	Life
Mandatory Minimum Term of Imprisonment	Life
- 18 U.S.C. § 3559(c)(1)(A)(i) - if two or more serious violent felonies	
Maximum Fine	\$250,000
Maximum Term of Supervised Release	Three Years
Mandatory Special Assessment	\$100

AO 257 (Rev. 6/78)

DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 BY: ☐ COMPLAINT ☐ INFORMATION ☒ INDICTMENT
☐ SUPERSEDING
OFFENSE CHARGED
 Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery;
 Counts 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

☐ Petty
☐ Minor
☐ Misdemeanor
☒ Felony

PENALTY: See Penalty Sheet Attached

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

DEFENDANT - U.S.

TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON

DISTRICT COURT NUMBER

CR 08

0251

 RICHARD W. WIEKING
 CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
DEFENDANT**IS NOT IN CUSTODY**

Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.

- 1) ☐ If not detained give date any prior summons was served on above charges
- 2) ☐ Is a Fugitive
- 3) ☐ Is on Bail or Release from (show District)

IS IN CUSTODY

- 4) ☐ On this charge
- 5) ☒ On another conviction } ☒ Federal ☐ State
- 6) ☐ Awaiting trial on other charges
- If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution

 Has detainer been filed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes" give date filed

DATE OF ARREST

Month/Day/Year

Or... if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not

DATE TRANSFERRED TO U.S. CUSTODY

Month/Day/Year

☐ This report amends AO 257 previously submitted**PROCEEDING**

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

☐ person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court, give name of court☐ this person/proceeding is transferred from another district per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District
☐ this is a reprosecution of charges previously dismissed which were dismissed on motion of:
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☐ this prosecution relates to a pending case involving this same defendant

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Name and Office of Person

Furnishing Information on this form JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO

☒ U.S. Attorney ☐ Other U.S. Agency

Name of Assistant U.S.

Attorney (if assigned)

DEREK R. OWENS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS**PROCESS:**☐ SUMMONS ☐ NO PROCESS* ☒ WARRANT

Bail Amount: _____

If Summons, complete following:

☐ Arraignment ☐ Initial Appearance

Defendant Address: _____

* Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment

Date/Time: _____ Before Judge: _____

Comments: _____

PENALTY SHEET ATTACHMENT

As to Defendant Tavaras Lee Blackmon:

Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery, **Class D Felony**

Maximum Term of Imprisonment	Five Years
Maximum Fine	\$250,000
Maximum Term of Supervised Release	Three Years
Mandatory Special Assessment	\$100

Counts 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9:

18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery, **Class B Felony**

As to each count:

Maximum Term of Imprisonment	Twenty-Five Years
Maximum Fine	\$250,000
Maximum Term of Supervised Release	Five Years
Mandatory Special Assessment	\$100

AO 257 (Rev. 6/78)

DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 BY: ☐ COMPLAINT ☐ INFORMATION ☒ INDICTMENT
☐ SUPERSEDING
OFFENSE CHARGED
 Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank
 Robbery;
 Count 2: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

☐ Petty
☐ Minor
☐ Misdemeanor
☒ Felony

PENALTY: See Penalty Sheet Attachment.

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

DEFENDANT - U.S.

VANESSA ANNE SHORT

DISTRICT COURT NUMBER

CR 08

0251

DEFENDANT

WHA

PROCEEDING

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

☐ person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court,
 give name of court

☐ this person/proceeding is transferred from another district
 per (circle one) FRCrP 20, 21, or 40. Show District

☐ this is a reprosecution of
 charges previously dismissed
 which were dismissed on motion
 of:
SHOW
DOCKET NO.
☐ U.S. ATTORNEY ☐ DEFENSE

☐ this prosecution relates to a
 pending case involving this same
 defendant
MAGISTRATE
CASE NO.
☐ prior proceedings or appearance(s)
 before U.S. Magistrate regarding this
 defendant were recorded under

Name and Office of Person

Furnishing Information on this form JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO

☒ U.S. Attorney ☐ Other U.S. Agency

Name of Assistant U.S.

Attorney (if assigned)

DEREK R. OWENS

IS NOT IN CUSTODY

Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.

- 1) ☒ If not detained give date any prior
 summons was served on above charges
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- 3) ☐ Is on Bail or Release from (show District)

IS IN CUSTODY

- 4) ☐ On this charge
- 5) ☐ On another conviction } ☒ Federal ☐ State
- 6) ☐ Awaiting trial on other charges

If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution

 Has detainer ☐ Yes
 been filed? ☒ No

 If "Yes"
 give date
 filed
DATE OF
ARREST

Month/Day/Year

Or... if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not

DATE TRANSFERRED
TO U.S. CUSTODY

Month/Day/Year

☐ This report amends AO 257 previously submitted
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS**PROCESS:**
☐ SUMMONS ☐ NO PROCESS* ☒ WARRANT

Bail Amount: _____

If Summons, complete following:

☐ Arraignment ☐ Initial Appearance

 * Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or
 warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment

Defendant Address:

Date/Time: _____

Before Judge: _____

Comments:

CM

PENALTY SHEET ATTACHMENT

As to Defendant Vanessa Anne Short:

Count 1:	18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery, Class D Felony
	Maximum Term of Imprisonment Five Years
	Maximum Fine \$250,000
	Maximum Term of Supervised Release Three Years
	Mandatory Special Assessment \$100
 Count 2:	 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery, Class B Felony
	As to each count:
	Maximum Term of Imprisonment Twenty-Five Years
	Maximum Fine \$250,000
	Maximum Term of Supervised Release Five Years
	Mandatory Special Assessment \$100

JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO (CABN 44332)
United States Attorney

FILED
APR 17 2008
RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON,
TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON, and
VANESSA ANNE SHORT,

Defendants.

CR. 08

0251

WHA

VIOLATIONS: Title 18, United States
Code, Section 371 – Conspiracy; Title 18,
United States Code, Sections 2113(a) and
(d) – Armed Bank Robbery; Title 18,
United States Code, Section 2 – Aiding and
Abetting

SAN FRANCISCO VENUE

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE: 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery

1. Beginning on or before February 24, 2007, and continuing through on or about May
30, 2007, in the Northern District of California, the defendants,

FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON,
TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON, and
VANESSA ANNE SHORT,

did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, and agree with each other, and with R.D., and
with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit offenses against the United

INDICTMENT

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1 States, that is, to commit armed bank robbery in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
2 Sections 2113(a) and (d).

3 Overt Acts:

4 2. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to achieve the objectives thereof, the following
5 overt acts, among others, were committed in the Northern District of California:

6 Robbery #1: February 24, 2007

7 a. Sometime before 9:30 a.m. on February 24, 2007, FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON
8 ("JOHNSON"), TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON ("BLACKMON"), VANESSA ANNE SHORT
9 ("SHORT"), and R.D. met and discussed a robbery of a Bank of America branch in Belmont,
10 California.

11 b. On or about February 24, 2007, JOHNSON, BLACKMON, and R.D., aided and
12 abetted by SHORT, robbed the Bank of America at 2031 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, California.

13 c. R.D. controlled the lobby of the bank using a firearm, while JOHNSON and
14 BLACKMON jumped over the teller counter. JOHNSON, who was also brandishing a firearm
15 and wearing Nike batting gloves, took money from the teller window.

16 d. After leaving the bank, JOHNSON, BLACKMON, and R.D. drove a few blocks away
17 in a white van and met with SHORT, who was waiting in a black Honda. JOHNSON,
18 BLACKMON, and R.D. exited the van and entered SHORT'S black Honda and she drove all
19 four from the scene, leaving the van.

20 e. JOHNSON, BLACKMON, SHORT, and R.D. proceeded to JOHNSON and
21 SHORT'S shared residence in Redwood City, California, and distributed the money they took
22 from the bank. SHORT received a percentage of JOHNSON'S, BLACKMON'S, and R.D.'s
23 share of the money.

24 Robbery #2: March 21, 2007

25 f. On or about March 21, 2007, JOHNSON, BLACKMON, and R.D. robbed the Bank of
26 America at 39300 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, California. Again, the three men entered the bank,
27 where R.D. controlled the lobby, while JOHNSON and BLACKMON, who were both wearing
28 masks, jumped over the teller counter and removed money from the teller stations.

1 Robbery #3: March 29, 2007

2 g. On or about March 29, 2007, JOHNSON and R.D. robbed the Washington Mutual
3 Bank at 10250 S. De Anza Blvd., Cupertino, California.

4 Robbery #4: April 14, 2007

5 h. On or about April 14, 2007, JOHNSON, BLACKMON, and R.D. robbed the Bank of
6 America at 2900 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California.

7 Robbery #5: April 20, 2007

8 i. On or about April 20, 2007, JOHNSON and R.D. robbed the Bank of America at 2611
9 N. First Street, San Jose, California.

10 Robbery #6: April 30, 2007

11 j. On or about April 30, 2007, JOHNSON and BLACKMON robbed the Bank of
12 America at 921 East Arques Avenue, Sunnyvale, California.

13 Robbery #7: May 11, 2007

14 k. On or about May 11, 2007, JOHNSON and BLACKMON robbed the Bank of
15 America at 1310 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, California.

16 Robbery #8: May 14, 2007

17 l. On or about May 14, 2007, JOHNSON and BLACKMON robbed the Bank of America
18 at 300 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California.

19 m. On May 25, 2007, JOHNSON, BLACKMON, and SHORT surveilled the Bank of
20 America branch at 740 East Calaveras Boulevard in Milpitas, California, then drove to two other
21 banks before driving to a casino.

22 n. On May 26, 2007, JOHNSON went to surveilled the Wells Fargo Bank at 1202 E.
23 Arques Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, ("Sunnyvale Wells Fargo Bank") and the Bank of
24 America at 921 E. Arques Avenue, Sunnyvale, California. JOHNSON did not enter either of the
25 banks.

26 o. On May 29, 2007, JOHNSON drove to the Sunnyvale Wells Fargo Bank, then drove
27 on and around the nearby side streets of the bank, and then in and out of adjacent parking lots to
28 the bank. JOHNSON did not enter the bank.

1 p. On May 30, 2007, JOHNSON drove SHORT'S black Honda to the Sunnyvale Wells
2 Fargo Bank and was followed by a white Ford Explorer. JOHNSON parked the Honda in a
3 nearby parking lot at 1228 Titan Way, then exited the Honda carrying a small dark colored duffle
4 bag containing a silver pistol, a Halloween mask, a dark knit ski cap, a holster, and a pair of Nike
5 batting gloves. JOHNSON entered the passenger side of the Explorer and was driven to the
6 Wells Fargo Bank, where he was arrested.

7 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

8 COUNT TWO: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

9 1. On or about February 24, 2007, in the Northern District of California, the defendants,
10 FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON, and
11 TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON,
VANESSA ANNE SHORT,
12 did knowingly and by force, violence, and intimidation, take from the persons and presence of
13 employees of the Bank of America, 2031 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, California, approximately
14 \$48,066 in United States currency belonging to and in the care, custody, control, management,
15 and possession of said Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit
16 Insurance Corporation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

17 2. In committing this offense, the defendants assaulted and put in jeopardy the life of
18 another person by use of a dangerous weapon, to wit: a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United
19 States Code, Sections 2113(a) and (d).

20 COUNT THREE: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

21 1. On or about March 21, 2007, in the Northern District of California, the defendants,
22 FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON, and
23 TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON,
24 did knowingly and by force, violence, and intimidation, take from the persons and presence of
25 employees of the Bank of America, 39300 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, California,
26 approximately \$40,973 in United States currency belonging to and in the care, custody, control,
27 management, and possession of said Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the
28 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section
2113(a).

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COUNT SIX: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

1. On or about April 20, 2007, in the Northern District of California, the defendant,
FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON,
did knowingly and by force, violence, and intimidation, take from the persons and presence of
employees of the Bank of America, 2611 N. First Street, San Jose, California, approximately
\$38,169 in United States currency belonging to and in the care, custody, control, management,
and possession of said Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit
Insurance Corporation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

2. In committing this offense, the defendant assaulted and put in jeopardy the life of
another person by use of a dangerous weapon, to wit: a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United
States Code, Sections 2113(a) and (d).

COUNT SEVEN: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

1. On or about April 30, 2007, in the Northern District of California, the defendants,
FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON, and
TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON,
did knowingly and by force, violence, and intimidation, take from the persons and presence of
employees of the Bank of America, 921 East Arques Avenue, Sunnyvale, California,
approximately \$55,542 in United States currency belonging to and in the care, custody, control,
management, and possession of said Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section
2113(a).

2. In committing this offense, the defendants assaulted and put in jeopardy the life of
another person by use of a dangerous weapon, to wit: a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United
States Code, Sections 2113(a) and (d).

COUNT EIGHT: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

1. On or about May 11, 2007, in the Northern District of California, the defendants,
FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON, and
TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON,
did knowingly and by force, violence, and intimidation, take from the persons and presence of

employees of the Bank of America, 1310 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, approximately \$19,698 in United States currency belonging to and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of said Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

2. In committing this offense, the defendants assaulted and put in jeopardy the life of another person by use of a dangerous weapon, to wit: a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2113(a) and (d).

COUNT NINE: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) - Armed Bank Robbery

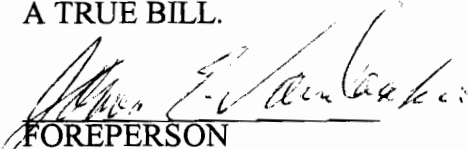
1. On or about May 14, 2007, in the Northern District of California, the defendants,
 FREDERICK LIM JOHNSON, and
 TAVARAS LEE BLACKMON,
 did knowingly and by force, violence, and intimidation, take from the persons and presence of employees of the Bank of America, 300 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California, approximately \$43,918 in United States currency belonging to and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of said Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

2. In committing this offense, the defendants assaulted and put in jeopardy the life of another person by use of a dangerous weapon, to wit: a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2113(a) and (d).

DATED:

A TRUE BILL.

4-17-08


 FOREPERSON

JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO
 United States Attorney


 GREGG W. LOWDER
 Chief, Major Crimes Section

(Approved as to form: )
 AUSA OWENS

INDICTMENT